

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims 4, 6 and 8 and canceled the claims 5 and 9 without prejudice. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. Accordingly, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the claims as amended.

The Examiner has rejected the claims 8 and 9 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite stating that in claim 8 the limitation "body fluid diffusion layer" lacks antecedent basis and claim 8 should depend on claim 3. Also it is the Examiner's opinion that the claim 9 recited that the body fluid diffusion layer has a water absorption of "100 mm or more in ten minutes" and this is indefinite. Applicant has amended the claim 8 to depend upon the claim 3 and canceled the claim 9 without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim 8 complies with the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has rejected the claims 2, 4 and 6 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Matsushita. Applicant has combined the allowable limitations of claim 5 into claim 4, made claims 2 and 6 dependent on claim 4 and canceled the claim 5 without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims 2, 4 and 6 are allowable.

The Examiner has rejected the claims 3, 7, 8 and 9 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Matsushita in view of Hamajima et al. Applicant has combined the allowable limitations of the claim 5 into claim 4 and the claims 3, 7 and 8 are dependent directly or indirectly upon the claim 4 and canceled the claim 9 without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims 3, 7 and 8 are allowable.

The Examiner has further indicated that claims 5 and 10 contain allowable subject matter. In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim 10 is now allowable since it depends directly on the allowable claim 4. Still further, the Examiner has indicated that claims 12 through 16 are allowed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 12 through 16 are all allowed and Applicant accepts these allowed claims.

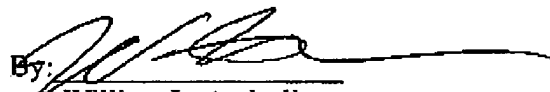
In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

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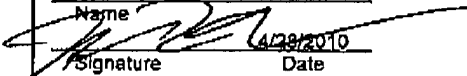
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Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this
Amendment or required by any additional requests for extensions of time to QUINN
EMANUEL DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 50-4367.

Respectfully submitted,

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